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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Discussion on the special theme for the year, "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Human rights: Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Report of the United Nations system in Ecuador

Summary

This report has been drawn up on the basis of contributions made by the agencies of the United Nations system in Ecuador against the background of the recommendations made by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. This is the fifth joint report submitted to the Permanent Forum by the United Nations agencies in Ecuador.

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I. How has your United Nations country team contributed to advancing the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples mentioned below?

A. Promotion of non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects

1. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2010-2014 was signed by the Government of Ecuador and the United Nations system in August 2009 after a two-year process of consultation with various institutions and organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations. UNDAF, the basis for United Nations system agencies' programming in Ecuador, focuses on five areas of cooperation: (a) the population's capacities, potentialities, quality of life and life expectancy; (b) production, employment, food sovereignty and supportive economic system; (c) environmental sustainability and risk management; (d) reform of the State, participation, justice and human rights; and (e) development, peace and border integration in the northern region. The cross-cutting themes of UNDAF are human rights, gender equity and interculturality.

2. In 2009, implementation began of the Development and Cultural Diversity to Reduce Poverty and Promote Social Inclusion Programme. This programme brings together the work of seven agencies in the United Nations system and is coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Its Government counterpart is the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage, which links several Government ministries and institutions at the central and local levels. The programme is national in scope and will operate in the provinces of Chimborazo, Esmeraldas and Sucumbíos, with financing that totals US $5.5 million over three years. The programme has three main areas: public policies, economic undertakings and the use of statistics in decision-making.

3. As part of that programme, the system supported the drafting of the Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion in consultation with and with the participation of different organizations of indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples. Preparation of the plan was coordinated by the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and it was presented both nationally and in Sucumbíos, Chimborazo and Esmeraldas Provinces. In the light of the importance of this Plan, the President of the Republic issued Decree No. 60 which calls for its application as a national public policy, decreeing 365 days of combat against racism and racial discrimination and the construction of an intercultural society. The plan has been published and is an important public policy tool for reducing discrimination and racism.

4. In order to provide organizations of indigenous peoples in Ecuador with an opportunity for reflection, knowledge and exchange surrounding the progress, obstacles and challenges of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Secretariat of Peoples, Social Movements and Citizen Participation, in the framework of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, organized in coordination with the inter-agency intercultural

theme group and UNDP a national workshop to prepare for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Representatives of civil society, Government authorities and aid agencies participated in the workshop, which provided important inputs for Ecuador's delegation to the eighth session.

5. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), together with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, drafted a document systematizing indigenous peoples' justice systems. That document, which was distributed to and validated by the indigenous nationalities that participated in the study, will serve as an input for the preparation of a bill on coordination and cooperation between indigenous justice and ordinary law. Training modules in collective rights were also prepared for officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, National Police, Armed Forces and judges or prosecutors. In December 2009, an international workshop was held on the administration of indigenous justice and its coordination with ordinary law, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. James Anaya.

6. The Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, implemented with the support of six United Nations agencies in Ecuador and coordinated by UNDP, and financed by the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, supported the Ministry of the Environment plan on precautionary measures for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples (Tagaeri and Taromenane). The plan involves assessment, policing and monitoring efforts and promotes alternative economic development projects and works that will improve the quality of life of the populations living in the areas of influence and territories of isolated indigenous peoples. The plan also promotes policies that will protect the physical and cultural integrity of isolated indigenous peoples, as well as their ancestral territories.

7. Supported by the Spain-UNDP Trust Fund "Towards an Integrated and Inclusive Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", a national seminar was organized on "Strengthening Political and Social Leaderships of Indigenous Youth in Ecuador for Human Development and the Construction of the Plurinational and Intercultural State" (the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID), the Council for the Development of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador (CODENPE) and UNDP).

8. With the participation of 75 young men and women indigenous leaders from across the country, the seminar was organized to underscore the importance of youth leadership in processes to enhance participatory democracy and social change among the original nationalities and peoples of Ecuador.

9. The Ministry of Education and its National Directorate for Bilingual Intercultural Education, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have proposed an educational initiative for nine Amazon nationalities (Sion, Secoya, Cofán, Kichwa, Shuar, Achuar, Shiviar, Wao and Zapara) which includes a teaching model focused on the particular characteristics of these peoples and on the production of teaching materials that include basic alphabets, teaching games for the early school years and children's illustrated dictionaries in indigenous languages. Those efforts were undertaken as part of the Andean Project of Bilingual Intercultural Education for the Amazon Region (EIB-Amaz) with the financial support of the Government of Finland.

10. The government of Pichincha Province, the Directorate for Bilingual Education and private enterprises are promoting an educational package called "Let us learn from the indigenous peoples and nationalities of Ecuador", which includes interactive compact discs for basic education to promote knowledge of Ecuador's cultures and diversity. These materials have been distributed in Spanish-speaking and bilingual schools in the Amazon region and in the Cayambe canton of Pichincha Province.

11. In an alliance between the Apostolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas, the Afro Pastoral of the Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference and UNICEF, the Encyclopaedia of Afro-Ecuadorian Knowledge was published to help to raise the sensitivity to Afro-descendant culture of leaders, teachers and communities. This Encyclopaedia is the fruit of several years of compilation and collective development of the memory of Ecuador's Afro-descendants.

B. Promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent

12. At the request of the Government of Ecuador, in December 2009 the Special Rapporteur, Mr. James Anaya, made a three-day visit to Ecuador.

13. The Special Rapporteur held meetings with Ecuadorian organizations of indigenous peoples and State bodies, reviewing the status of such issues as consultation with and the participation of indigenous peoples, the process of dialogue under way between the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) and the Government, and the process to draft a bill on coordination and cooperation between indigenous justice and ordinary law.

14. The Confederation of Kichua Nations of Ecuador (ECUARUNARI) and UNICEF have been working in recent years to design, discuss and promote the indigenous children's agenda, a teaching and training model for indigenous leaders, bilingual intercultural educators and indigenous boys and girls, intended to promote discussion within communities of the themes of identity, territory, health, education and protection of the country's indigenous children.

15. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been supporting in the three provinces covered 22 environmentally sustainable production enterprises established by indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. This has been a participatory process in which the communities themselves have defined the profiles of the projects supported, initiatives that seek to underscore the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and populations which, as a result of discrimination, have been relegated from development processes.

16. The primary objective is recovery of the livelihoods of indigenous populations, protection of natural resources and a new appreciation of all the traditional knowledge related to farming and food production that has been transmitted from generation to generation. The traditional farmers of Chimborazo Province are a living example of how information is passed down. They are seen as wise farmers,

who use biological or astral indicators to plan their activities. Their recovery is one of the main goals of the programme and they are an example that is to be developed in Esmeraldas and Sucumbios Provinces, where there are several indigenous peoples.

C. Redefine development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples

17. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, a Master's degree in public policies, multiculturalism and human rights and a diploma course in intercultural health have been established in order to build the capacities of Government officials in intercultural public policy design and intercultural health. These academic initiatives will be developed by the Government's Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN) and will offer high-level training for public officials. The initiatives comply with the constitutional mandate that multiculturalism must be a cross-cutting theme in the country's social, economic and political relations.

18. Under the agreement between the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) and UNICEF, debate and academic development has been promoted in the themes of interculturalism and public policies in the country, with a special focus on the work of local indigenous governments, systematizing their experiences of intercultural matters.

19. The production projects supported by FAO will serve as a model that will provide sufficient information for the preparation of public policies both in small-scale production and in the recovery of traditions and knowledge that help to mitigate the effects of climate change and to promote partnership and small production.

D. Develop strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and particularly the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives

20. As part of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Millennium Development Goals report was presented both in Quito and in the cities of Lago Agrio and Riobamba. The report is a useful tool for decision makers because it contains important statistical information on the development situation of indigenous peoples. The report highlights the social gaps that exist in Ecuador and is a starting point for drawing up proposals relating to inclusion.

21. The report was drafted by the inter-agency intercultural theme group and UNDP in coordination with Government institutions, in particular the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage.

II. Has your United Nations country team carried out/supported activities regarding the dissemination and/or implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? Please specify

22. The United Nations system strengthened its own capacities in the areas of the knowledge and dissemination of the rights of indigenous peoples. Assistance was provided by UNDP and UNFPA for two of their officials to attend the first course on training of trainers on indigenous peoples' issues, held in Turin.

23. As a follow-up to and practical application of this training, the system officials who had been trained, together with expert Carlos Mamani and the support of the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, organized a two-day training workshop in November for the country team; it was attended by 40 representatives, programme officials and programme coordinators. A similar workshop was organized for officials of the Government of Ecuador, and 43 officials attended. The content of the Declaration was broadly disseminated at those workshops and tools were offered for its application.

III. Can you provide specific examples on how your United Nations country team has contributed to:

A. Eradication of poverty and inequalities of indigenous peoples

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, administered by UNDP and the World Tourism Organization

24. Within the framework of the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme and the Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility has supported the selection and development by communities and organizations of indigenous peoples in different provinces of the country of several environmentally sustainable production enterprises involved in cultural preservation. The projects, executed by the communities themselves, permit the construction of sustainable livelihoods and ensure the management and preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

25. In the specific case of FAO, efforts are under way to promote the recovery of indigenous peoples' traditional methods in crop and livestock production, processing and value added, permitting an exchange of knowledge and lessons learned to be used as practices that are environmentally friendly and encourage the preservation of natural resources as the main source of their development.

26. Several of these activities have been conducted under joint projects such as the Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, the Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve and the Runa Kawsay project that relates to strengthening indigenous organizations and restoring the importance of traditional

products in the high Andean regions of Ecuador, which is being developed in the Chimborazo Province where there is a large indigenous population.

B. Intercultural sexual and reproductive health and maternal health programmes and policies

27. In November, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health and UNFPA, in coordination with the Andean Health Organization, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Regional Inter-agency Task Force for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality, organized an international seminar on interculturality and effective rights in the Andean subregion, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health to strengthen *Sumak Kawsay* (living well). This two-day event, held in Quito, brought together more than 250 officials, experts, leaders, midwives and academics from 14 Latin American countries. Outcomes of the event included the Quito Declaration and a number of recommendations both for Ministries of Health and for international aid agencies, universities and organizations of indigenous peoples.

28. UNFPA supported the preparation of the intercultural health diploma course, which will be held for the first time starting in mid-2010. Its purpose is to strengthen the capacities of Ministry of Health officials at the central and provincial levels so that they can include the intercultural perspective in the services provided.

C. Main mortality reduction initiatives

29. The Ministry of Health received assistance from UNFPA in the development of reproductive health models with an intercultural approach in four provinces: Imbabura, Chimborazo, Sucumbíos and Esmeraldas.

D. Population and development with emphasis on research, data collection, dissemination and analysis, information systems for policy development and monitoring, emerging issues such as migration, trafficking, among others in favour of indigenous peoples

30. The National Commission on Statistics for Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian Peoples received support from UNFPA. The mission of the Commission is to harmonize and reach consensus regarding quantitative and qualitative information on the indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples of Ecuador, and to standardize methodologies for calculating sociodemographic indicators. The most important achievements include the establishment of an office in the National Statistics and Census Institute to operationalize the National Commission on Statistics for Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian Peoples (CONEPIA), one of whose tasks was to draft the questions related to ethnic self-identification for inclusion in the questionnaire of the upcoming 2010 census. For that purpose, several technical and consultative meetings were held with organizations of indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples in the provinces of the country to reach agreement on the

census questions. The National Statistics and Census Institute also carried out the experimental test of the census questions.

IV. How has your United Nations country team contributed to the empowerment of indigenous women, organizations and networks in the last three years? Give specific examples, annexing project reports

31. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has held a regional event attended by 213 indigenous peoples in the region to discuss indigenous women's access to indigenous traditional justice. The event took place within the framework of the regional programme "Working to combat ethnic and racial discrimination through the effective implementation of the rights of Latin American indigenous women", and had the support of the United Nations system inter-agency gender and intercultural theme groups in Ecuador. It was attended by women from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico.

32. With the support of UNFPA, Family Care International (FCI), IBIS and Norwegian People's Aid, the women's technical secretariat of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, held the first women's congress of the nationalities and peoples of Ecuador, attended by more than 500 representatives of grass-roots organizations. Women from indigenous peoples and nationalities met for two days to discuss their rights and their problems as citizens. Participants at the event analysed the political and strategic agenda for the women of the peoples and nationalities of Ecuador. That agenda is a guide for the coming years, both within their organizations and to influence the Government's public policies.

V. Please describe major achievements, challenges and gaps regarding programming in support of indigenous communities

33. Achievements in the past year include:

(a) The implementation of the Development and Cultural Diversity, which has boosted the discussion of the themes of inclusion and the rights of indigenous peoples;

(b) The enactment of the Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion;

(c) The drawing up of public policy and interculturality training programmes for public officials to be held in 2010;

(d) The strengthening of intercultural health policies in the Ministry of Public Health aimed at reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples. The policies were debated at the Andean regional level at an international seminar with broad participation by the countries in the region;

(e) The publication and dissemination of the report on the Millennium Development Goals of indigenous peoples;

(f) The planning of the 2010 census, including ethnic self-identification questions.

34. The challenges facing the country include:

(a) Strengthening state institutions. The new Constitution provides that the Equality Councils "shall perform functions in the formulation, mainstreaming, monitoring, follow-up and evaluation for public policies related to gender, ethnicity, ageing, intercultural issues, disabilities and movement of persons, pursuant to the law";

(b) Among the outcomes of the UNDP Development and Cultural Diversity Programme, agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Coordination for Cultural and Natural Heritage and CODENPE regarding the provision of technical assistance and the facilitation of opportunities for dialogue to promote institutional innovation in CODENPE for the future National Equality Councils.